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SOURCE Periodicals as indicated.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW USSR DRUGS

[Comment: The following information on new USSR drugs
was taken from two Soviet periodicals, Aptecnoye Delo and
Meditsinskaya Promyshlennost' SSSR.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Albomycin is an active antibiotic substance which is obtained by sep-
aration and chemical purification from the culture liquid of a definite
species of microorganism. Albomycin suppresses the growth of gram-positive
as well as of gram-negative bacteria. This antibiotic is a white or light-
yellow powder which is easily soluble in distilled water.(1)

Bactericidal paper is a porous, pink paper which is supplied in sheets
of 10 x 14 cm that weigh 1 g each. This paper contains adsorbed silver
nitrate and silver chloride in a quantity not exceeding 1.2 mg per sheet.
On being moistened (preferably with distilled or boiled water), it is applied
to minor skin injuries and covered with an ordinary bandage. The Pharmacol-
ogical Committee [of the Ministry of Public Health USSR] has also approved
the use of bactericidal plaster, i.e., adhesive plaster to which a strip of
paper that has been treated with silver nitrate is affixed. Bactericidal
paper must be kept in opaque jars or jars of brown glass.(1)

Dimedrol, a white powder of a melting point of 164-165° and readily
soluble in water, is a synthetic drug which, by reason of its antihistaminic
action, prevents histamine shock and counteracts histamine-produced spasms
of the smooth musculature. In clinical practice, dimedrol is used to alle-
viate serum disease, nettle rash, hay fever, vasomotor rhinitis, allergic
conjunctivitis, keratitis, and other eye conditions. Dimedrol is adminis-
tered perorally, intramuscularly, or intravenously.(1)

Diphenin (dilantin; 5,5-diphenylhydantoin sodium) is an effective anti-
spasmodic which has a slight hypnotic effect. It is used mainly as an anti-
epileptic. Treatment with diphenin is occasionally combined with

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administration of luminal or bromides. If the patient has received luminal or bromides prior to administration of diphenin, the transition to diphenin must be made gradually.(1)

Dicumarin (dicumarol) is an effective anticoagulant. It is extracted from *Melilotus officinalis* or prepared synthetically. If an excessive dose of dicumarin has been administered, transfusion of whole blood or of plasma is applied. Dicumarin has been developed by VNIKhFI (All-Union Scientific Research Chemicopharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze) and released for medical use between January 1951 and July 1952. (1,2)

Kendoside is a purified drug extracted from *Kendyr' konoplevyy* [a species of *Apocynum*; *Apocynum sibiricum*?]. The action of kendoside is similar to that of strophanthin; it is applied in cases when strophanthin would be indicated. Strophanthin should not be given directly after the administration of kendoside. Kendoside must be stored under lock and key.(1)

Neriolin is a pure glucoside extracted from the leaves of *Nerium oleander* shrubs which are cultivated in the Caucasus. Neriolin has the properties of digitalis preparations but differs from them in that its action sets in much earlier (within 6-8 hr). On peroral administration, neriolin is resorbed through the blood stream and does not produce any side effects. Neriolin has a cumulative action, but this action is less prominent than in the case of digitalis, and is clearly expressed only when full doses (0.2 mg three times per day) are applied. Neriolin should be stored under lock and key.(1)

Theophedrin, which is used for the alleviation of bronchial asthma, is supplied in the form of tablets. These tablets contain theophylline, theobromine, pyramidon, phenacetin, caffeine, ephedrine, luminal, lobeline or cytisine, and powdered belladonna leaves.(1)

Trimethine (trimethadione; tridione; 3,5,5-trimethyl-2,4-oxazolidine-dione) has been synthesized by VNIKhFI. It is used as an antiepileptic, particularly for petit mal seizures.(1)

(The following drugs were developed by VNIKhFI. Their release for medical use was authorized between January 1951 and July 1952.)

Ethaminal sodium (sodium salt of ethyl-methylbutyl barbituric acid) is a new hypnotic of the barbiturate group. Drugs of this type are used to induce therapeutic sleep. The development of this drug and initiation of the production of sonbutal, kvietal (quietal), and rector are of great importance for public health. In view of the fact that an individual approach in the prescription of hypnotics is necessary, it is essential to have a wide selection of drugs of this type.(2)

Promedol is a new domestic analgesic and sedative. In addition to VNIKhFI, the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences USSR, and the Institute of Fine Chemical Technology imeni M. V. Lomonosov participated in the work which led to its production. Promedol resembles morphine in its action, but is more effective and more easily tolerated than morphine. In addition to being an analgesic, promedol has a spasmolytic action. Promedol is used in cases of postoperational pain, gastrointestinal ulcers, colics of the kidneys and liver, and for the alleviation of pain due to malignant tumors and childbirth. It is not habit forming. This drug is administered subcutaneously or perorally.(2)

Diplacin is an original domestic drug of the curare type. In the USSR, there are no natural sources of tubocurarine. Diplacin is a synthetic drug which has the muscle-relaxing effect of curare preparations, but which is less toxic and more convenient to use than tubocurarine.(2)

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Cardiotrast (diethanolamine salt of 3,5-diiodo-4-pyridone-acetic acid) is a contrast agent for X-ray diagnostic investigations. A 70% cardiotrast solution is supplied for investigations of the heart and of the blood vessels adjoining the heart, while a 50% solution is used for the rest of the vascular system.(2)

Neurotrast is a special contrast agent to be used for X-ray investigations of the spinal cord.(2)

Pachycarpine (an alkaloid) is a drug which was originally isolated and investigated in the USSR. This drug is a very effective remedy for the treatment of obliterating endarteritis, muscular dystrophies, and diseases of the nervous system which are connected with alterations in vegetative ganglia (cervicothoracic ganglionitis and changes of the stellate ganglion and of the solar plexus). Furthermore, pachycarpine is an effective birth-accelerating agent.(2)

Phosphacol is a good midriatic and an effective remedy for glaucoma.(2)

Tibon shows a good effect in the treatment of pulmonary and nonpulmonary tuberculosis, but is relatively toxic. If it is administered carelessly, it may produce headaches, nausea, and complications in the hemopoietic system. It is given perorally in quantities of 0.01-0.05 g two to three times a day.

Treatment may continue for a period as long as 8-10 mo. Tibon may also be used to rinse the pleural cavity, and is then applied in the form of a sterile 1% suspension in a physiological salt solution or oil.(2)

Phthivasid represents further progress in the chemotherapy of tuberculosis. This newly synthesized drug has a high antituberculous activity and a low toxicity. It is given perorally in doses of 0.3-0.5 g two to three times a day. In some cases phthivasid exerts a therapeutic effect after streptomycin and p-aminosalicylic acid have been used unsuccessfully. Phthivasid will be introduced widely into medical practice in the near future.(2)

SOURCES

1. Ye. Yu. Shass, "New Therapeutic Agents," Aptekhnoye Delo, Vol II, No 1, 1953, pp 64-67
2. M. V. Rubtsov, M. D. Mashkovskiy (VNIKhFI), "New Medicines for Public Health," Meditsinskaya Promyshlennost' SSSR, No 6, 1952, pp 23-26

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